

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-28 are pending in the Application. Claims 1, 3-4, 6, 10, 13-19 and 26-28 are rejected. Claims 1, 3 and 13-14 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ellig (US 5,862,603). Claims 4, 6, 10, 15, 18-19 and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellig in view of Lorocco (US 5,956,854). Claims 5, 7-9, 11-12 and 20-25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Objections

Claims 5, 7-9, 11, 12 and 20-25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The claims have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims in accordance with the Examiner's recommendations. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5, 7-9, 11, 12 and 20-25 are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1, 3, 13-14 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ellig (U.S. 5,862,603). Claims 1, 3, 16 and 17 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejection as to these claims is moot. Claims 13 and 14 have been amended to depend from claim 12 indicated as being drawn to allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection to claims 13 and 14.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 4, 6, 10, 15, 18-19 and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellig in view of Lorocco (5,956,854). Claims 4, 18 and 19 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejection as to claims 4, 18 and 19 are moot. Claims 6 and 10 have

Applicant : Paul M. LoRocco
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been amended to depend from claim 5 indicated as being drawn to allowable subject matter. Claim 15 have been amended to depend from claim 12 indicated as being drawn to allowable subject matter. Claims 26-28 have been amended to depend, directly and indirectly, from claim 25 indicated as being drawn to allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections to claims 6, 10, 15, and 26-28.

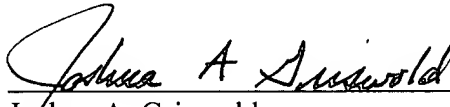
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, the Application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance. If there are any outstanding issues the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's counsel at the telephone number provided below to resolve such issues.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$430.00 for excess claim fees . Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10-22-03



Joshua A. Griswold
Reg. No. 46,310

Fish & Richardson P.C.
5000 Bank One Center
1717 Main Street
Dallas, Texas 75201
Telephone: (214) 292-4034
Facsimile: (214) 747-2091